

Appl. No. 10/766,846
Amdt. Dated January 18, 2005
Reply to Office Action of January 3, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) An apparatus incorporating potted hollow fibre membranes, the apparatus having,

- a) a solid mass of a potting material having a first face;
- b) a plurality of hollow fibre membranes sealed in the potting material; and,
- c) terminal portions of the hollow fibre membranes adjacent open ends of the membranes protruding from the first face,
wherein,
- d) the solid mass of potting material extends to and adhesively secures to the inner periphery of a permeate collection means to form a permeate collection zone; and,
- e) the open-ended terminal portions of the hollow fibre membranes protrude into the permeate collection zone.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the permeate collection means is a permeate pan-or-an-end-cap.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the permeate collection means further comprises walls enclosing a plenum adjacent to the permeate collection zone into which plenum a gas may be introduced.

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6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 5 further comprising an air tube passing through the potting material, the air tube having a first end protruding from a second face of the potting material from which the membranes extend and a second end in communication with the plenum.
7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the potting material extends to and adhesively secures to the air tube.
8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising an air tube, the air tube passing through the potting material, the air tube having a first end protruding from a second face of the potting material from which the membranes extend and a second end in communication with a plenum or manifold into which air may be introduced.
9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the potting material extends to and adhesively secures to the air tube.